

bcc: Haydon/Bourgin  
Reports (P-2173, 2183)

14 November 1962

L-22180

Mr. Marcus Alexis  
22 Robinson Street  
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear Mr. Alexis:

I returned today from a two-week trip and my secretary deposited a pile of letters on my desk, among which I found yours dated January 15, 1962. It seems that while I was away, a file of old letters to me (yours and two others) had turned up in another office -- a legacy from an earlier secretary of mine. Apparently the three letters, all dated about the same time, arrived while I was on a trip in January, and the secretary neglected to give them to me when I returned. Please accept my apologies: for myself, and for the system.

About the time you wrote me from Cambridge I was engaged in writing a thesis on the general subject of my article, entitled "Risk, Ambiguity and Decision." I got this in just in time to receive my degree in June at Harvard. Therefore, although I do not presently have a copy that I can send you, you should be able to see it in Widener, or wherever it is they keep Ph.D. theses in Economics. The thesis reflects almost entirely reading and analysis subsequent to the publication of my article, and my thoughts on the subject have developed still further since June, so the article must be regarded as rather a preliminary cut at the subject. However, my later conclusions have not (yet) been such as to invalidate the conjectures in the article, of which I enclose two copies. I would appreciate any comments you might care to make, negative or positive, either on the paper or on the thesis. I will presently be editing the thesis for issue as a RAND Research Memorandum, and I will send you a copy as soon as it is available.

I am also enclosing a copy of a very condensed paper applying decision theory to some aspects of national security problems. I would be very interested to see copies of any papers you might have available on your own work in decision theory.

Sincerely yours,

DE/ss  
Enclosures (Noted)

Daniel Ellsberg  
Economics Department